

organ in the shape of vascular bands on the inner walls of its air bladder which enable it to utilize direct surface air for its respiration. When the fish is prevented from reaching the surface, being caught in the nets, it drowns and dies. Other fish which take oxygen dissolved in water can remain struggling. During a trial netting on August 19, 1983 some more fish were caught in similar circumstances. They were 67 cm in total length and varied from 2.75 to 3.1 kg in weight. Gonads were in-

conspicuous. This record gives reliable data that *M. cyprinoides* is capable of living for at least 44 years in fresh water in wild conditions and grow to the length and weight mentioned above. They were so healthy that they appeared capable of living for another 8 or 10 years. Further records would therefore be interesting to assess the longevity of this fish but one can assert from this record that the fish can live at least for 44 years.

B/4, SHARDASHRAM,
BHAWANI SHANKAR ROAD,
DADAR, BOMBAY 400 028,
August 29, 1983.

C. V. KULKARNI

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24. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE DADIO, *CHELA* (*NEOCHELA*)
DADIBURJORI (MENON) (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE)

(With a text-figure)

In 1951, A. G. K. Menon published an account of a new species of fish from Cochin. His description was based on a few specimens sent to the Zoological Survey of India by the veteran aquarist, the late Mr. Sam J. Dadyburjor.

The fish, named by Menon as *Laubuca dadiburjori* after this aquarist, is closely related to the species *maassi* from Sumatra, even

to the extent of fin-ray count. The fin-ray formula is:—

D. 2/7, A. 3/11, P. 1/7, V. 1/5, C. 19; L. 1. 30-34, L. tr. 7.

Laubuca dadiburjori, now called *Chela* (*Neochela*) *dadiburjori*, can be distinguished in having a lateral steel blue stripe running along the middle of the body, extending from the angle of the opercle to the caudal peduncle,

and a band of the same colour along the dorsum from the base of the dorsal fin to the occiput. On the lateral body stripe are three

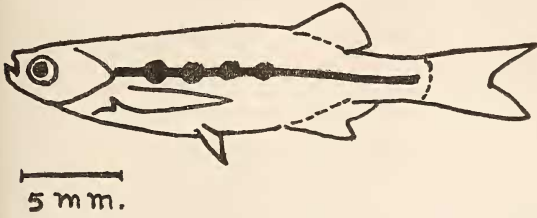


Fig. 1. *Chela (Neochela) dadiburjori*; adult.

to four dark dots in the adult and as many as six in the juveniles. In adult females these dots diminish considerably in size until they are almost inconspicuous along the dorsal stripe. This is clearly seen in the colour photograph in Axelrod *et al.*'s (1967) book on page 365. Above the dark stripe is a thin golden stripe. The dark stripe and dots turn black on preservation. The lateral line is incomplete. The fins are transparent with a yellowish tinge. The body in the female is colourless and transparent except for the silvery sheen over the viscera, but the adult male has a suffused yellow coloration all over the body.

The fish is diminutive in size, growing only to 30 millimetres in the adult female, and a few millimetres less for the male. It is a popular pet in the home aquarium, where it is known as "dadio", or sometimes as the Indian glass barb (Frank 1979, page 177). Incidentally, the photograph in Frank's book (page 176) is not of *Chela (Neochela) dadiburjori*, and his statement that the fish grows to a length of four to five centimetres is also incorrect. His measurements and photograph are of the flying barb (*Esomus danricus*), as can be made out from the long pectoral fins and the very long barbels below the chin seen in his photograph.

In the course of our collection of fishes from

peninsular India over the last twenty years, we have continually collected live specimens of this species from Nagercoil in Tamilnadu State, and from Sanguem in Goa. Nagercoil ($8^{\circ} 3' N$, $77^{\circ} 40' E$), which is situated just north of Cape Comorin, is about 230 kilometres (as the crow flies) south of Cochin ($9^{\circ} 43' N$, $76^{\circ} 13' E$), and this constitutes an extension of range southward for *Chela (Neochela) dadiburjori*. Similarly, Sanguem, which is over 615 kilometres north of Cochin, constitutes a considerable extension of range for this fish. From our findings of this fish from such widely separated places, it can be assumed that *Chela (Neochela) dadiburjori* may be inhabiting suitable water stretches throughout the area between the two aforesaid places. However, while collecting *Puntius melanampyx* from Mundakayum, Kottayam and Quilon, we did not come across any specimens of this fish.

Axelrod *et al.* (loc. cit.) put Menon's name in parentheses after the name of the fish, then known as *Laubuca dadiburjori*. This is incorrect according to the international rules of Zoological nomenclature, as Menon had attributed this fish to the genus *Laubuca*. They have also given the geographic distribution of the species as "vicinity of Bombay". This is erroneous and is probably based on the fact that these fishes are exported from Bombay airport in the international aquarium fish trade. Such statements based on assumption, and published in non-technical literature and popular books, unfortunately lead to ichthyologists subsequently quoting these earlier sources as authoritative, leading to confusion about the true geographic distribution of the species. This has happened in the present instance, where Frank (1979) has wrongly followed Axelrod *et al.*'s (1967) distribution of this fish.

“SACHETAN”,
L/4-5, SITARAM BUILDING,
PALTON ROAD,
BOMBAY-400 001.
E-31, CUSROW BAUG,
COLABA CAUSEWAY,
BOMBAY-400 039,
December 30, 1981.

S. R. SANE

B. F. CHHAPGAR

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25. AN INTERESTING METHOD OF FISHING IN DHANBAD DISTRICT, BIHAR

(With a text-figure)

In connection with our studies on fishes of Bihar, one of us (G.M.Y.), while making faunistic survey of River Barakar during June, 1981, came across an interesting method of fishing at Madrussa ghat (R. Barakar) c. 6 km. north of Tundi (Distt. Dhanbad). The method essentially consists of a pot-trap—an aluminium bowl, c 10 cm diameter, on top of which a piece of cloth is tied around. A few holes are made in this cloth and a small quantity of baked and coarsely ground seeds of white millet (“Jowar”, *Sorghum vulgare*), *Kundurung* (*Bibiscus sabdariffa* L.) (Malvaceae), and *Sarguja* (*Guizotea abyssynica* Cass. (Compositae) mixed in 4:1:1 proportion, respectively, are placed in the bowl. The bowl is set in a

depression in the sand in such a way that the cloth surface is almost level with sand around it (Fig. 1).

This method is operated in shallow, running waters where the bottom is generally sandy. As the bowl is left under water, all fish available in the vicinity get attracted towards the bowl owing to presence of ground seeds which act as bait, and finally enter the bowl through the holes. When a number of fish have gone in they fail to come out, presumably due to panic (Faruqui & Sahai 1943). The bowl is now taken out of water and fish removed to a fish basket. The operation is repeated as long as fish are available in sufficient number, otherwise the trap is shifted to a new spot.